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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,064	06/24/2003	Thomas A. Maufer	NVDA P000701	1631
26291 7590 05/03/2007 PATTERSON & SHERIDAN L.L.P. 595 SHREWSBURY AVE, STE 100 FIRST FLOOR SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702			EXAMINER AVELLINO, JOSEPH E	
			ART UNIT 2143	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/03/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/606,064

Applicant(s)

MAUFER ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph E. Avellino

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 27-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 27-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23, and 27-31 are presented for examination; claims 1, 11, 22, 23, and 27 independent. The Office acknowledges the cancellation of claims 24-26 and the addition of claims 28-31.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. The Office has considered the amendments to the claims. The rejection under this statute is either withdrawn or moot due to the cancellation of the rejected claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 30 recites the use of "5-triple information" which is not defined in the specification. This is believed to be a typographical error and should read "5-tuple information". For Examination purposes, the claim shall be interpreted that the hash function is based on the 5-tuple information of the incoming packet.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-5, 10-13, 18-23, and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuk (US 2004/0030927) (which discloses the use of TCP/IP flows, see ¶ 22 and Figure 3, and therefore inherently conforms to and includes the limitations of the previously cited RFC document Internet Protocol; RFC 791; DARPA Internet Program Protocol Specification; September 1981 hereinafter RFC) (Zuk also incorporates by reference Application no. 10/072,683, also known as US 2003/0154399, hereinafter '399) in view of Vairavan (US 2002/0083344).

5. Referring to claim 1, Zuk by way of RFC discloses a method for processing a fragmented packet within a firewalling device comprising:

receiving fragments of the packet to the device (i.e. an inherent feature, otherwise the fragments would be unable to be reassembled) prior to processing of firewall policies at the firewalling device (i.e. session is classified after fragments are reassembled) (Zuk:Figure 4, ref. 402, 415);

sorting the fragments according to the packet and order of the fragments (i.e. defragmentation) (Zuk:Figure 4);

storing the fragments in association with the packet and in order (i.e. all the fragments associated with the packet or datagram would be stored in the same buffer) (RFC: pp. 27-29: 'An Example Reassembly Procedure': "the data from the fragment is placed in the data buffer according to its fragment offset and length") in a connection table (i.e. flow table 300);

collecting all the fragments to reconstitute the packet (i.e. the datagram is only sent to the next step if the fragment completes the datagram) (RFC: p. 27, ¶ 4); and

assembling the fragments in order to reconstitute the packet (RFC:p. 27: "if the fragment completes the datagram...then the datagram is sent to the next step in . . . datagram processing"); and

transferring the packet to the firewalling device to apply the firewall policies to the entire packet at one time (i.e. the fragments are reassembled, and then the policies are applied, thereby applying the firewalling policies to the entire packet) (Zuk: Figure 4, ref. 415).

Zuk does not explicitly disclose the use of an NT table and cross linking the NT and CT table. In analogous art, Vairavan discloses another firewalling device (i.e. packet processor 210) which includes a NAT table for translating packets from external to internal addresses and vice versa (¶¶ 60, 103, 104). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Vairavan with Zuk in order to provide NAT translation services by combining the packet processor of Vairavan with the security devices described in the flow table of Zuk which can include information such as address translation information (Zuk: ¶ 22) which can be used by the processor of Vairavan to efficiently translate packets. By including the packet processor device as part of the security devices, this would cross link the NT and CT tables by storing a hash of the 5-tuple as used in Zuk ('399: ¶ 93). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Vairavan with Zuk in order to provide an integrated, easily upgradeable networking device capable of interfacing with different

types of networks while still providing high performance networking functionalities such as protocol conversion, security maintenance, and inter/intra-network management within an enterprise environment as supported by Vairavan (¶ 16).

6. Referring to claim 2, RFC discloses obtaining source and destination address information for the fragments, and determine if the source information of the fragments matches (i.e. construct BUFID based on source, destination, protocol, and identification and determine if a BUFID has been allocated, and if so, then insert fragment into position in the buffer) (p. 28).

7. Referring to claim 3, RFC determines whether the fragments have a valid checksum (i.e. a fragment is inherently an IP datagram, and as such, behaves according to the protocol, thereby including, packet error correction procedures) (p. 3, ¶ 2).

8. Referring to claim 4, RFC discloses obtaining packet (i.e. BUFID) and fragment identifiers (i.e. fragment offset, "FO", which provides where in the original datagram the fragment is supposed to go) (p. 28).

9. Referring to claim 5, RFC discloses determining if any fragments needed to reconstitute the packet have not been stored (i.e. the packet is only set to the next step

if the fragment completes the datagram, otherwise the reassembly routine gives up control) (p. 27).

10. Referring to claim 10, Zuk-Vairavan discloses the invention substantively as described above, however does not disclose overwriting one of the fragments with a subsequently received fragment, however this is a well known feature since memory is finite that data must inherently be rewritten at some point in time. By this rationale, "Official Notice" is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing for overwriting a fragment is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Zuk-Vairavan in order to only need a finite size of memory.

11. Claims 11-13, and 18 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

12. Referring to claims 19 and 20, RFC discloses that the fragments are physically stored in order within the buffer memory reserved (p. 27). It should also be noted that if data is stored physically contiguous, then it is inherently logically contiguously stored.

13. Referring to claim 21, RFC discloses that the fragments are IP version 4 packets (page 11: Version "this document describes version 4").

14. Claims 22, and 23 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

15. Referring to claim 28, Zuk discloses storing an ART for a first packet of a connection to the firewall device and the hashing each of the packets to determine a table entry to forward the packet (i.e. the creation of a flow table of Zuk clearly demonstrates the Address Research Table since it is created for the first packet of a connection and is associated with the NT and CT as shown above) (Zuk: ¶ 27).

16. Referring to claim 29, Zuk discloses comparing information from each received packet to the previous received packet (i.e. the flow record is created upon the information gathered from the first packet, and since the hash is created based off the information in the subsequent packet to find the correlating flow record, it inherently checks this hash value against the hash value generated with the first packet, thereby comparing the information to a previous received packet) (¶ 27).

17. Referring to claims 30 and 31, as shown above, Zuk discloses the hash value is a 5-tuple information, which includes public address information ('399: ¶ 93).

Claims 6-9, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuk-Vairavan in view of Mogul et al (Path MTU Discovery, RFC 1191, November 1990) (hereinafter Mogul).

18. Referring to claims 6 and 7, Zuk-Vairavan discloses the invention substantively as described in claim 5. Zuk-Vairavan do not specifically disclose determining if the collective fragments exceed a communication length threshold and if so, purging the fragments. In analogous art, Mogul discloses another data transferring system which discloses determining if a datagram is too large to be forwarded without fragmentation (i.e. the packet as a whole exceeds the MTU of the link), the router will discard the packet (p. 3, section 2: "Protocol Overview"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Mogul with RFC-Malagrino in order to reduce the fragmentation reassembly requirements of the host on the network of Malagrino by requiring that the packet be small enough such that reassembly will not be needed by the host, thereby reducing processing on the host.

19. Referring to claims 8 and 9, RFC discloses starting a timer when a fragment is received, and checking whether all the fragments needed to reconstitute the packet have not been received to the firewalling device within a threshold time period (i.e. if the timer runs out, release reassembly resources) (p. 27, ¶ 4).

20. Claims 14-17 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Conclusion

21. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

22. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

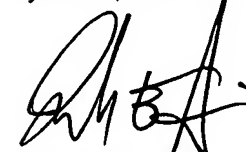
It is the Examiner's position that Applicant has not yet submitted claims drawn to limitations, which define the operation and apparatus of Applicant's disclosed invention in manner, which distinguishes over the prior art. As it is Applicant's right to continue to claim as broadly as possible their invention. It is also the Examiner's right to continue to interpret the claim language as broadly as possible. It is the Examiner's position that the detailed functionality (i.e. *how the interconnections of the NT, CT, and ART tables are established, and how they are used in order to process the fragmented packet*) that

allows for Applicant's invention to overcome the prior art used in the rejection, fails to differentiate in detail how these features are unique.

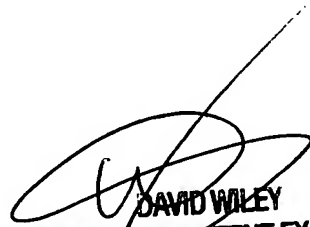
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph E. Avellino whose telephone number is (571) 272-3905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joseph E. Avellino, Examiner
April 18, 2007



DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100